EQUISETUM arvenſe.

Lin. Sp. Pl 1516. *Flo. Angl.* 447. *Scot.* 647. *Cant.* 344. *Ray Syn.* 130. *Ger. Em.* 1114. *Park.* 1202.

TAB. XXXIV.

CORN HORSETAIL.

THE root is of a dark brown or blackiſh colour, jointed at equal diſtances, emits numerous black fibres from the joints, and creeps to a great diſtance under the ſurface.

The fertile ſhoots at *a*, make their appearance about the end of March; the flowering ſpike being at firſt hidden under the brown imbricated vagina; when the ſpike firſt appears it is of a greeniſh colour, afterwards changes to brown, and when at maturity the valves open, and diſcharge a pale coloured downy powder, which is the ſeed.

The ſtem is round, ſmooth, hollow, and of a pale pleaſant brown, it conſiſts of ſeven or eight joints, each ſurrounded by the baſe of a fuſcous vagina, which is a little inflated, and divided at the top in about twelve narrow, pointed, brown ſegments. This ſtem very rarely produces any ſecond leaves; it generally falls and diſappears before the appearance of the barren leaves.

BARREN LEAVES.

The barren leaves, b, appear in April, and grow from the ſame roots as the fertile ones; at their firſt coming up the ſecond leaves are hidden under the vagina, but ſoon make their appearance in about twelve ſhort whirls, and form the reſemblance of a rough ſpike. When full grown it is about two feet high from the root to the top, and conſiſts of fifteen or twenty